

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-14 were presented in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 7 and 11 are amended, and claims 3, 9, 10 and 13 are canceled. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11, 12 and 14 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 9 and 13 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 3, 9 and 13 depended, respectively, from claims 1, 7 and 11. Claims 1, 7 and 11 have been rewritten to include the limitations of, respectively, dependent claims 3, 9 and 13. Claims 3, 9 and 13 have accordingly been cancelled, and claim 6 has been amended to depend from amended claim 1 rather than from canceled claim 3. It is submitted that claims 1, 7 and 11, and claims 2, 4-6, 8, 12 and 14 depending therefrom, are now in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Govett (USP 5,761,507). Independent claim 10 has been canceled. The rejection with respect to the remaining claims is moot in view of the amendments to claims 1, 7 and 11 discussed above.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Appl. No. 09/871,888
Amdt. Dated January 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 16, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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